

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicant will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Objections

Claims 26-28, 38 and 39 were found to include allowable subject matter, but were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Since each of these claims has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the base claim (there were no intervening claims), these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15, 17, 19-21, 23 and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,393,161 ("the Higurashi patent") and in view

of U.S. Patent No. 6,330,001 ("the Nakao patent"). The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

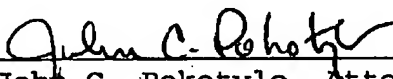
Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Office on the date shown below.

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April 12, 2007
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